

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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R 190905Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2658

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MZ

SUBJECT: POLITICAL-MILITARY BRIEFING OF JUNE 18

REGULAR MONTHLY POLITICAL-MILITARY BRIEFING FOR CONSULAR
CORPS COVERING MAY 1-JUNE 17 EVENTS TOOK PLACE UNDER CHAIR-
MANSHIP OF COL. RAMIRES RAMOS ON JUNE 18. HIGHLIGHTS OF
BRIEFING WERE:

1. FRELIMO HAS INCREASED ATTACKS ON LOCAL POPULATION,
WHICH RAMOS CONSIDERS PROOF THAT FRELIMO DOES NOT HAVE
SUPPORT OF MOZAMBIQUE POPULATION AS IT CLAIMS.

2. DIMINISHED LEVEL OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY BY GOP FORCES
HAS, BOTH FOR "PSYCHOLOGICAL" REASONS AND GESTURE OF GOOD-
WILL TOWARD FRELIMO, DECREASED MILITARY ENCOUNTERS WITH
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FRELIMO.

3. FRELIMO HAS EXTENDED GUERRILLA WAR FURTHER SOUTH, WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN ACTIVITY AGAINST WHITE-OWNED FARMS AND -DRIVEN VEHICLES IN VILA PEREIRA DISTRICT SOUTH OF BEIRA-VILA PEREIRA ROAD.

4. FRELIMO HAS INTENSIFIED ATTACKS ON TRANSPORTATION. PRINCIPAL TARGETS WERE: RAILROAD IN TETE BETWEEN NECUNGA-MECITO, DISRUPTING TRAFFIC TO AND FROM MOATIZE AND CABORA BASSA; TETE-ZOBUE ROAD, LEADING TO MALAWI; MONTEPUEZ-MUEDA ROAD IN CABO DELGADO, PRINCIPAL SUPPLY ROUTE FOR MILITARY IN MUEDA; BEIRA-MALAWI RAILROAD, WITH ATTACKS BEGINNING 10 KM SOUTH OF MUANZA AND BECOMING PARTICULARLY INTENSE AROUND INHAMITANGA.

5. ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWALS OF GOP FORCES FROM OUTPOSTS IN REMOTE AREAS OF NIASSA, CABO DELGADO, AND TETE ARE BASED ON NEED TO CONCENTRATE GOP LIMITED FORCES IN AREAS OF GREATER IMPORTANCE.

6. IN COL. RAMOS' OPINION, GOP WILL INSIST ON REFERENDUM FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IN MOZAMBIQUE AND WILL NOT HAND OVER COUNTRY TO FRELIMO WITHOUT ESTABLISHING ITS SUPPORT BY MAJORITY OF MOZAMBIQUE PEOPLE. PRECIPITATE INDEPENDENCE MIGHT COMPROMISE VIABILITY OF MOZAMBIQUE AS INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF TRIBAL RIVALRIES AND LACK OF POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF PEOPLE.

7. COMMENT: COL. RAMOS EVIDENTLY DEPRESSED BY GENERAL TREND OF DEVELOPMENTS. WITH FRELIMO AND GOP POSITIONS APPARENTLY STILL FAR APART, CONCERN INCREASING AT PROSPECT OF CONTINUATION OF WAR BY FRELIMO AND GRADUAL EROSION OF GOP POSITION IN MOZAMBIQUE.

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